

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 00964 271606Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 271340Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1711

S E C R E T CAIRO 0964

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR MARTIN FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, VS, VN, EG, SA

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN POSITION AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE

REF: SAIGON 934

1. AS YOU WILL NOTE FROM CAIRO 950, GOE POSITION AT OPEATIONAL LEVEL SEEMS CAST IN CONCRETE ON MATTER OF PRG SEATING AT SECOND UPCOMING LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN CHANGE IT IS FAHMY AND HE, UNFORTUNATELY, ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT TODAY ON A THREE-DAY STATE VISIT TO FRANCE. HE IS EXPECTED BACK ON JANUARY 29 OR 30 AT WHICH TIME I WILL TACKLE HIM ON THIS SUBJECT. I THINK BAC'S POINT AND YOURS IS WELL TAKEN. THE EGYPTIANS HAVE GOT TO GIVE SOMETHING FOR WHAT THEY GET.

2. I SHOULD CAUTION THAT FAHMY MAY BE A BIT SKITTISH SINCE HE RECENTLY GOT BURNED ON THE KHMER RESOLUTION ISSUE. AFTER WE PERSUADED THE EGYPTIANS TO ABSENT THEMSELVES FOR THE VOTE, SADAT WAS SUBJECT TO INTENSE CRITICISM FROM HIS FELLOW NON-ALIGNED BLOC MEMBERS AND APPARENTLY REALLY FELT THE HEAT. LON NOL ALSO MADE THE MISTAKE OF SENDING A MESSAGE OF THANKS TO SADAT, MUCH TO LATTER'S EMBARRASSMENT. ALTHOUGH
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GOE HONORED ITS COMMITMENT TO US ON SECOND KHMER VOTE,

FAHMY HAS TOLD ME THAT IT CANNOT DO SO AGAIN. WHILE
THE TWO ISSUES ARE SEPARATE, GOE SEES THEM IN SIMILAR
LIGHT AND AFTER EFFECT OF KHMER INCIDENT MAY SPILL OVER.

3. MEANWHILE, WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW IF RVN WOULD
GO SO FAR AS TO REVOKE EGYPTAIR OVERFLIGHT
RIGHTS IF GOE DOES NOT AT LEAST ABSTAIN, AND, IF SO,
WHETHER I CAN TELL FAHMY THAT PRESSURES WITHIN
RVN COULD BE SUCH AS TO MAKE CONTINUATION OF THESE
OVERFLIGHTS RIGHTS IMPOSSIBLE. I WOULD HOPE RVN WOULD
NOT GO THAT FAR, BUT IF THERE IS THIS DANGER, GOE OUGHT
TO BE APPRISED OF IT.
EILTS

SECRET

NNN

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